

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 04699 211630Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 712

S E C R E T MADRID 4699

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECRETARY VEST ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY

1. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH THE KING ON OTHER MATTERS REPORTED SEPARTELY, HE ASKED ME THE RHETORICAL QUESTION OF WHAT DOES ONE DO ABOUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE PARLIAMENT. HE ANSWERED HIMSELF BY SAYING HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE AN EFFORT TO GET RID OF SANTIAGO CARRILLO, AS, ACCORDING TO THE KING'S INFORMATION, THERE WERE MANY MEMBERS OF THE PCE UNHAPPY WITH THE ELECTION RESULTS. THEY FELT THAT SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S MODERATE CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PCE FAILURE TO DO BETTER.

2. THE KING'S QUESTION, ALTHOUGH A RHETORICAL ONE, GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THAT I THOUGHT THAT NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE OVER AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS IN THE PARLIAMENT, WE WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN TO HAVE LOW LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THEM IN ORDER TO LEARN SOMETHING MORE ABOUT WHAT THEY WERE UP TO. THE KING INQUIRED WHETHER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN WESTERN EUROPE HAD CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS. I SAID EXCEPT WHERE COMMUNISTS HELD OFFICIAL POSITIONS THEY DID NOT. HE SEEMED RATHER SURPRISED.

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HE SAID HE WAS NOT QUITE SURE HOW THAT WAS POSSIBLE CONSIDERING THESE COMMUNIST PARTIES WERE LEGAL POLITICAL GROUPS. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT, WHILE WE TOOK THE POSITION THAT IT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO DECIDE WHO THEY SHOULD ELECT IN THE WAY OF THEIR POLITICAL LEADERS, IT DID NOT NEAN WE WERE INDIFFERENT TO WHOM WAS ELECTED AND WE CLEARLY PREFERRED THOSE WITH A DEMOCRATIC

BACKGROUND. CONSEQUENTLY, FOR THE AMBASSADORS THEMSELVES  
TO HAVE THESE CONTACTS WITH COMMUNISTS MIGHT TEND TO BLUR  
OUR STATED POSITION ON THIS QUESTION. THE KING SAID HE  
SAW NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM TO OUR CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNISTS  
AS I HAD DESCRIBED THEM.

2. I DO NOT PROPOSE THAT CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST  
PARTY BE INITIATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE 87399, UNTIL  
I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF LETTING THE PRIME MINISTER  
INFORMALLY KNOW OF OUR INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD.  
STABLER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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